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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT
(12 May 2001 - 10 May 2002)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2002

SUPPLEMENT No. 17

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual Report covering the period from 12 May 2001 to 10 May 2002

INTRODUCTION

1. The present Annual Report was adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the sixth meeting of its fifty-seventh session on 10 May 2002.

CHAPTER I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. None.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. A list of meetings held since the fifty-sixth session is contained in Annex I, showing in each case the dates, the officers and the symbols of the report. These reports record the agreements reached and decisions taken.

B. Other activities

4. The secretariat serviced the regular session of the Commission, Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission, meetings of its subsidiary bodies, and other meetings held under its auspices. Periodic reviews, including the Economic Survey of Europe, specialized statistical bulletins and other publications were issued (see Annex II). The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the Departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

C. Relations with other United Nations Programmes

5. The cooperation of the Commission and its secretariat in 2001/2002 with various United Nations bodies and other international organizations, as well as with their secretariats, has continued as called for in the Plan of Action.

CHAPTER III

FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The fifty-seventh session of the Commission was held from 7 to 10 May 2002. The Commission heard statements by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary.

7. The fifty-seventh session was attended by representatives from Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.

8. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community.

9. Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

10. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), and the following specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: International Labour Office (iLO), World Bank, Council of Europe, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

11. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: AIE CR; Agrobusiness Management Centre; Centre for the Advancement of Women; Centre of European Studies of Cuba; European Advisory Council for Technology Trade (EACT); Fondation pour l'économie et le développement durable des régions d'Europe (FEDRE); International Council of Women; Zonta International.

12. A complete list of participants can be found in document E/ECE(57)/INF.1/Rev.1.

B. Agenda

13. The Commission adopted its agenda (E/ECE/1391/Rev.2) taking into account the revised work schedule. Regret was expressed that it was not possible for member countries to receive at an early stage more formal documentation on substantive items translated into all official languages.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. The policy implications of the Spring Seminar for ECE

3. Economic aspects of security in Europe:
   - The ECE role in developing the economic conditions for long-term security
   - The sectoral dimension

4. Discussion of decisions arising from the high level policy segment for inclusion in the report of the Commission

5. The ECE Steering Group: Conclusions and recommendations on the functioning of the PSBs and the Programme of Work

6. Strengthening the Organization

7. Progress Report on ECE Technical Assistance

8. Preparation for and follow-up to World Conferences

9. Election of officers

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report

C. Election of Officers

14. The Chairman of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission was Mr.Kálmán Petöcz (Slovakia) and the Vice-Chairpersons Mr. Amiran Kavadze (Georgia), Mr. Yaakov Levy (Israel) and Mrs. Michèle Pranchère-Tomassini (Luxembourg).

15. Mr. Eberhard Von Schubert (Germany) and Mr. Knut Langeland (Norway) were designated Rapporteurs by the Bureau.

16. At its sixth meeting Mr. Clyde Kull (Estonia) and Mr. Yaakov Levy (Israel) were proposed to serve as Chairman of the Commission. After a secret ballot, the Commission elected Mr. Clyde Kull (Estonia) Chairman of the fifty-eighth session. Mr. Yaakov Levy (Israel) was re-elected Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Hans Heinemann (Netherlands) and Mr. Mykhailo Skuratovskyi (Ukraine) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the fifty-eighth session.

D. Account of proceedings

The policy implications of the Spring Seminar for ECE
(Agenda item 2)

17. The debate based on the deliberations of the ECE Spring Seminar on "Labour Market Challenges in the ECE Region" held on 6 May 2002 was organized around two Round Tables, as follows:

(i) Round Table I: "FDI, industrial restructuring and labour markets". Mr. Werner Sengenberger (Former Director, Employment and Strategy Department, ILO) chaired the session. The following persons acted as discussants: H.E. Mr. Batirzhan Z. Ashitov, (Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Kazakhstan); Mr. James Bourke (Head, Enterprise, Trade and Policy Division, The National Policy and Advisory Board for Enterprise, Trade, Science and Technology, Dublin, Ireland); Ms. Danuta Jablonska (Head, Foreign Economic Cooperation in the Department of Economic Strategy, Ministry of the Economy, Warsaw, Poland); Ms. Ana Revenga (Lead Economist, Europe & Central Asia Region, World Bank).

(ii) Round Table II: "Population ageing, socio-demographic changes and labour market responses". Ambassador Walter Lewalter, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva chaired the session. The following persons acted as discussants: Mr. Andras Klinger (Head, Population Committee, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary); Mr. David Wise (Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Boston, United States of America); Christoph Linzbach (Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Berlin, Germany); Mr. Friedrich Buttler (Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, ILO).

18. For the first Round Table an issue paper, "Foreign direct investment, industrial restructuring and local labour markets in the transition economies of central and eastern Europe", provided a basis for the discussion; and for the second Round Table, the paper on "Labour market responses to population ageing and other socio-demographic change". In addition, a paper on "Gender aspects of changes in the labour markets in transition economies" was also made available as background material for the discussions.

19. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman of the Commission expressed his view that the topics taken up by the two round tables were both important and timely, and covered by the mandate of ECE. He highlighted a number of conclusion points as follows:

- to achieve a sustainable economic and social development in the region, of which the labour market is a very important element, the issue has to be approached from a holistic and comprehensive perspective;

- short-term considerations and long-term strategies should complement each other;

- global, regional and national and local policies should also complement one another.

- a main policy challenge is to articulate flexibility with stability, and competition requirements with protection needs.

- discussion of policies requires the availability of in-depth analyses in a global and regional framework; ECE, with its statistical and analytical capabilities, provides the forum for this substantive and cross-sectoral approach, in cooperation with the European Commission and international organizations such as OECD and ILO;

- further, there was a recognition of the need to address the problems of ageing in the ECE region and to monitor, the progress made in this respect, as a follow-up to the World Summit on Ageing and the Regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing.

20. The Executive Secretary of ECE stated her belief that the High-level segment discussion had been very productive and encouraging for the future strategic directions of ECE. She stressed the need for ECE to be actively involved in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Ministerial Conference on Ageing and the World Summit on Information Society as these three global conferences are highly relevant to the issue of employment promotion in the region.

21. She underlined the implications of the discussion on the work of ECE as follows:

- the subprogramme on industrial restructuring and enterprise development, a very comprehensive area of work of the ECE, can bring value added to the development of the region through its focus on the development of friendly environment for enterprises, decreasing the barriers to the set-up of SMEs, including financing for SMEs, and generating a new culture of management and entrepreneurship;

- bearing in mind the work of other organizations, ECE can find a niche by concentrating on promoting labour force participation among vulnerable social groups i.e. youth, older workers and women;

- geographical mobility having been identified as a supporting factor to employment, the Human Settlements subprogramme of ECE can further develop its work on social housing and housing policy that facilitates such workers' mobility;

- ECE as a regional commission has a role to play in tackling the problems of ageing. It should include in its work agenda the economic and social implications of ageing;

- migration is also an important issue and within its limited resources ECE could focus on a very narrow niche in this area;

- dealing with the above issues requires approaching them at different levels: global, regional, national, as well as local. ECE could give more focus to the latter as local development is relevant for SMEs creation, reduction of unemployment and the well-being of ageing population.

Economic aspects of security in Europe:

- **The ECE role in developing the economic conditions for long-term security**
- **The sectoral dimension**

(Agenda item 3)

22. The Commission considered this agenda item on the basis of a formal document "Economic Aspects of Security in Europe" (E/ECE/1392) and taking note of two conference room papers: CRP.1, prepared jointly by the secretariats of the UNECE and the OSCE, on "The economic dimension to security: new challenges and new approaches" and CRP.2 on "Role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in addressing threats against economic infrastructure". In addition, three related documents were available which had been discussed in ECE's subsidiary bodies: TRANS/2002/15, TRADE/WP.5/2002 and ENERGY/2001/7.

23. In introducing the item, the Executive Secretary recalled that security was not a new topic for UNECE, particularly since the Helsinki Process revived the idea in 1975 that economic factors as well as others are part of the "security equation". She pointed out that over the years the OSCE had increasingly requested the ECE for inputs into the economic dimension of security, and in 1998, at the request of the OSCE, ECE had organized a brainstorming seminar on the Economic Dimension of Security. Also in cooperation with OSCE, ECE had organized in 2001 a colloquium on the economic dimension of conflict prevention.

24. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Millennium Declaration and its follow-up resolution stress the importance of security and call upon all parts of the UN to adjust their programmes to take into account the follow-up to the Millennium Summit relating, in terms of security to, inter alia, the promotion of conflict prevention, and peace-building efforts. The Executive Secretary therefore expressed her belief that the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the Annual session was appropriate and timely and that the ECE should strengthen its policy dialogue on issues of concern to Europe. She pointed out that many member countries had expressed their support for the importance and value of such a debate. However, she understood the concerns of some countries that ECE should not duplicate the work of OSCE and security policies of the European Union.

25. A keynote address was delivered by Mr. Ján Kubis of the OSCE who spoke about the OSCE's role and experience in security and conflict prevention as well as the implications for its mandate of the decisions taken at the Ministerial Council meeting held in Bucharest in November 2001. Mr. Kubis underlined that the close cooperation between OSCE and ECE has been characterized by fruitful achievements. In particular, the cooperation has been effective in the preparation and follow-up to the annual Economic Forum as well as on specific activities such as the promotion of the Aarhus Convention. To strengthen this collaboration, the two secretariats have decided to map out a catalogue of ongoing collaboration and activities on the basis of which future cooperation can be strengthened and extended to involve key partners in the discussions.

26. The discussion was organized around two Round Tables: Round Table I - An integrated policy approach to security and development and Round Table II - The sectoral dimensions of security: the ECE role.

(i) Round Table I: "An integrated policy approach to security and development": Ambassador Michèle Pranchère-Tomassini, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission chaired the session. The following persons acted as discussants: H.E. Mr. Peter Trojanovic, Federal Minister for Economy and Internal Trade, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Mr. M. Kukobat, Head of Group Senior Advisor, Power Department, Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Mr. Makhmud Mamed-Kuliev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Andrew Fiddaman, Associate Director, The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum, United Kingdom; Mr. Patrick Hardouin, Director of Economic Affairs, North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Mr. Ivan D. Ivanov, Deputy Director, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Europe; Ms. Patricia Lewis, Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and Mr. Yves Berthelot, Director, United Nations Intellectual History Project, Senior Fellow, UNITAR.

(ii) Round Table II: "The sectoral dimensions of security: the ECE role": Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, chaired the session. The following persons acted as discussants: Mr. Sonunbek Ryskulbekov, Chief of the Cabinet, Ministry of External Trade and Industry, Kyrgyz Republic; and Mr. Andrew Mack, Director, Human Security Centre, University of British Colombia, Canada. In addition, the debate benefited from the contributions of the Chairpersons/Vice-Chairpersons of ECE's Principal Subsidiary Bodies.

27. The chairpersons/vice-chairpersons of PSBs made presentations of their work programmes as they relate to security. All PSBs have, in varying degrees, ongoing work relevant to the issue of security, particularly in the areas of transport, energy, environment, trade facilitation and human settlements.

28. The Commission expressed its support to the endeavour of all UN agencies to ensure a more stable and safe environment in the region and noted the work of the secretariat to identify the appropriate contributions of ECE in this regard. It was felt that, while ECE is not a security agency, it can contribute through its ongoing work in the various sectors. However, it stressed that ECE should avoid duplicating the work of other regional and international organizations and institutions and build on its recognized areas of expertise.

29. It encouraged the ECE to continue its work relating to economic aspects of security and its cooperation with OSCE whilst ensuring coordination and complementarity of the work between the two organizations. It further expressed its support for the private sector's involvement as an important component of future work.

30. The attention of member States was also drawn to the contribution of the European economic integration process to the security and economic prosperity of the region, as well as to further positive effects anticipated in this regard as a result of the enlargement of the European Union. In view of this, the ECE should also cooperate with the European Commission to ensure complementarity and synergies in the work relating to the economic aspects of security in the region.

31. The chairpersons of PSBs were invited to look closely at the work programmes of PSBs in the context of security and safety. This would provide a basis for a cross-sectoral examination of the challenges and potential threats to security that pertain to ECE work. The Executive Secretary was encouraged to continue to monitor this aspect of the activities of the Commission.

The ECE Steering Group: Conclusions and recommendations on the functioning of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Programme of Work
(Agenda item 5)

32. The Chairman of the Commission briefed the Commission on the outcome of the ECE Steering Group's meeting of 9 May 2002. The Group confirmed its role in strengthening the overall policy coherence of and communication in ECE. To this end, it recommended that:

- the monthly briefing by the Executive Secretary to the permanent missions be continued;
- the PSBs and the concerned Divisions present their work to member States once a year, possibly during the annual session;
- all means of communication, including the email, internet and websites, be exploited for information exchange;
- cooperation between the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW) and the Bureau be strengthened, through the continued attendance of the Chair of the GEPW in the Bureau meetings and, possibly, joint meetings between the Bureau and the GEPW as appropriate;
- the timing of the annual session should be reconsidered, in order to avoid clashing with other major UN meetings and in view of the holidays in May; one possibility would be in the first fortnight of March;
- the theme of the annual session be selected following consultations between the ECE Bureau, the GEPW, the PSBs and the secretariat;
- the theme chosen should take into account the interests of all member States, the need for ECE to contribute to global events, and the cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary character of ECE;
- the preparations for the annual session should be accelerated so that the theme can be decided at the ad hoc informal meeting in June;
- the Economic Survey of Europe should be accorded more attention, perhaps in the context of the Spring Seminar.
- the possibility of separating the Annual Session and the Spring Seminar should be examined.

33. The Steering Group, in the context of its discussion on technical assistance, also stressed the need to develop mechanisms to facilitate the participation of representatives from countries with economies in transition in meetings and activities of the Commission. It also discussed the use of regional advisers and operational activities. It was observed that operational activities should be better targeted, coordinated, demand driven and transparent.

34. The Commission reaffirmed the role of the Steering Group in contributing to the overall policy coherence and strengthening communication in ECE.

35. The Chair of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work introduced the report of the Group on the annual session (CRP.6 on "ECE Annual Session") which she presented to the Steering Group.

36. Member States also made the following proposals:

- that the Steering Group could play a more important role and meet as an integral part of the annual session;
- that coordination and assessment of technical assistance within the secretariat should be enhanced;
- that the Commission will consider the report of the Steering Group in the future;
- that for the annual session, a brief formal document be prepared by each PSB outlining its accomplishments, problems and challenges. The document should also provide information on the structure of the PSB and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the rate of participation by member States. In addition, where relevant, it should describe the status of the main ECE conventions and agreements together with the number of ratifications and accessions;
- that the report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work on the annual session as contained in CRP.6 be endorsed.

37. The Commission endorsed the report of the GEPW (CRP.6 on "ECE Annual Session") and the recommendations contained therein, with the possibility of further reviewing them in future open-ended consultations among member States, the Bureau and the secretariat.

Strengthening the Organization
(Agenda item 6)

38. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it Conference Room Paper 3 – Strengthening the Organization - UNECE Secretariat's Self-Assessment.

39. In her introductory remarks the Executive Secretary recalled that the Secretary-General had launched an initiative to continue the process of strengthening the Organization in the light of the Millennium Declaration principles and priorities. Part of this initiative involved a review of

the Secretariat's programme of work and each UN department had been asked, as a first step, to prepare self-assessments. The timing of the preparation of the self-assessments had been announced to all UN departments on 12 February 2002 by the Deputy Secretary-General with a submission deadline set for 15 April 2002. The DSG had stressed the need for departments to take initiatives and be bold when preparing their self-assessments. Meetings had been held with ECE Directors and staff members of all divisions on the content of CRP. 3. Discussions were still continuing in New York on the departmental contributions which will form part of the report on Strengthening the Organization that the Secretary-General will present to the General Assembly in September 2002.

40. To involve ECE member States as early as possible in the process, the Executive Secretary presented the self-assessment document for information and comment. In presenting her proposals, she stressed the importance of avoiding duplication with other organizations and building new strengths on existing ones. In particular, she proposed for ECE's activities to include the social dimension of growth and to increase policy-dialogue and support to policy making in the Commission. She was fully conscious of the fact that the overriding principle guiding the exercise must be that of focus. She emphasized that ECE cannot and should not become too dispersed and that new activities must be taken on in a focused way. She also stressed the need for ECE to be able to respond efficiently to global processes, both in the preparatory phase and implementation, bearing in mind what others are doing and what ECE's niche should be. The Executive Secretary underlined that the Commission was not expected to take a formal decision on the proposed " reform package" at the current meeting, but to have the first in a series of many discussions on strengthening the Organization. She looked forward to hearing the Commission's preliminary reactions to the proposals contained in CRP.3.

41. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to discuss the proposals set out in CRP.3. Delegations' initial comments on them were very diverse. The Commission believed that further discussion was needed on important matters such as: introducing more policy dialogue, the social dimension and security issues into the Commission's work programme, reforming ECE's intergovernmental structure, strengthening the role of the annual session and the Bureau, as well as the proposed orientation of technical assistance and operational activities.

42. The following points were made:

- It was suggested to agree at the session on clear recommendations for further advancement of inter-governmental negotiations on the "reform package" including the format and time-frame for this process. As an option, the existing Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW) could be authorized to undertake a preliminary expert-level examination of proposals and its conclusions and recommendations could be subsequently considered at an ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission.

- Support was expressed for the endorsement by the annual session of the recommendations recently prepared by the GEPW concerning the organization and holding of the annual sessions of the Commission, without linking them to the "reform package" which should be agreed upon in the future.

- The Plan of Action adopted in 1997 remained the basic reference for ECE and, in accordance with this Plan, ECE's activities should focus on those areas where it has recognized expertise and comparative advantages.

- In ECE activities a combination should be retained of various functions, namely exchange of views on topical issues related to development in the region, norms and standards setting, collection of statistical data and economic analysis, provision of technical assistance.

- Transparency in ECE secretariat procedures should be strengthened and consultation with member States should be enhanced on implementation of programme activities, preparation of budgetary requests, and spending of budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.

- The ECE role in European affairs and seeking solutions to global problems should be increased, and its image in political and business circles should be improved. This will require refreshing the priorities and introducing tangible result-oriented working methods.

- The need to agree on the strategic vision of the Commission's role and tasks and to prepare its medium-term plan of action (with the possibility of up-dating the plan at the annual sessions) was also noted.

- Measures aimed at any changes in the subsidiary machinery and reallocation of means and resources among the secretariat entities should be based on the results of a comprehensive review of the ECE activities both sector-wise and function-wise.

- The Commission should build on its existing strengths in areas of norms and standard setting and strengthen the implementation and monitoring of them.

- The work programme should be focused.

- Activities should respond to the needs and interests of all member countries and sub-regions.

- Any changes should take into account the mandates of other bodies in the UN system, European regional institutions and organizations in order to avoid overlapping, inefficiencies and ensure appropriate coordination.

- Any measures taken should be demand-driven and taken with the full participation of and consultation with member countries, the Bureau, the Steering Group, GEPW and PSBs.

- Any new activities must be taken on only when other activities are dropped.

- The modalities and timing of the process would have to be agreed at future ad hoc meetings of the Commission, following consideration by the GEPW, the Bureau and the PSBs.

43. The Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation for the Commission's support for strengthening the ECE in the wider context of UN reform. She concluded that:

- The ECE self-assessment contributes to the UN-wide reform launched by the Secretary-General which will provide for intergovernmental dialogue at all levels. Therefore she welcomed the active involvement of the Commission in this process.

- The Commission should not only build on old achievements, but must be able to respond to new challenges while exploiting its proven advantages and increasing its cooperation with others.

- The impact on the intergovernmental structure will take time to develop.

- The secretariat should improve its dialogue with member States and increase transparency.

- Member States should be involved in priority setting and establishing the programme of work for the budget so that ECE's work programme corresponds to the interests of its member States.

- The upcoming reform of the ECOSOC is likely to have implications for all regional commissions.

44. The Executive Secretary invited member States to submit their written comments on CRP.3 to her by mid-June. A further discussion is expected to be held on the subject at an ad hoc informal meeting in June 2002.

45. In concluding, the Chairman emphasized the need to actively involve member States through the Steering Group, PSBs, the Bureau and the GEPW in all future discussions of the proposed reform package.

46. It was the understanding of the Commission that member States would start open-ended consultations on the issue with the GEPW as soon as possible.

Progress report on ECE technical assistance
(Agenda item 7)

47. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it document E/ECE/1393 – Progress Report on ECE Technical Assistance, and Conference Room Paper 4 – Review of Operational Activities undertaken in 2001.

48. The Executive Secretary introduced this item by outlining the intent and directions of ECE's technical assistance and operational activities. She then introduced CRP.4 and its Annexes. She agreed with the points presented in the report of the GEPW (E/ECE/1393) for strengthening the Commission's technical activities and the need to develop a mechanism to render these activities more transparent, targeted and focused on the policy work of ECE's implementation of norms and standards for the benefit of countries in transition. She emphasized that the Commission would have other opportunities to discuss these matters at future ad hoc informal meetings.

49. The Chairperson of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work briefed the Commission on the Group's deliberations concerning the issue of technical assistance and presented the key points outlined in its report E/ECE/1393.

50. The Commission underlined the importance it accorded to ECE's work on technical assistance and operational activities. It was considered that further improvements were necessary to make them more effective. These activities needed to be better targeted and more coordinated with a view to producing tangible results, at the national and sub-regional levels and thus having a real impact on the development of recipient countries. It was also felt that they needed to be more transparent and that more information should be provided to clarify the understanding of the procedures involved in these activities from conception through funding, implementation and on to follow-up and evaluation.

51. Delegations made the following points:

- ECE technical assistance should respond to member States' real needs and necessities, be demand-driven and action-oriented and not be carried out at the expense of ECE's core activities, and be based on ECE's proven competencies.

- Technical assistance activities should benefit in particular those transition economies which have not yet achieved strong economic and social performance, are resource constrained and have limited support from various donor sources.

- Given ECE's limited budget for such activities, efforts should be made to mobilize extra-budgetary contributions from the donor community and develop diversified sources and funding schemes for technical assistance with civil society groups, foundations and the business community.

- The Commission should continue its cooperation with the EU, OECD, WTO and OECD with a view to supporting and developing joint technical cooperation programmes and seeking funding.

- A stronger overall horizontal coordination would be necessary to provide for priority setting in line with member countries' demands and increasing flexibility in the use of resources.

- Within the framework of ECE's technical assistance activities, it is important to address the problem of supporting the participation of experts from low- and middle-income transition economies in various activities, especially in PSBs and related work.

- It was considered that greater transparency and accountability was required regarding these activities. Member States needed to be provided with regularly updated information of the requests coming from individual countries or groups of countries, project proposals and a list of completed, ongoing and planned projects and priorities and analysis of project efficiency for end-users.

52. The Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its support for ECE's activities under this agenda item. She concluded that strengthened coordination on technical assistance activities should be based on both internal and external coordination with the relevant organizations working in the field of technical assistance. She also strongly supported the conclusions in E/ECE/1393, especially concerning the need for creating more transparency and providing regular up-dated information on technical assistance activities. She assured the Commission that the secretariat would develop its expertise to deliver on project assessment in the future.

53. The following decisions were taken:

- The Commission adopted paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and the ECE Technical Assistance Project Outline contained in document E/ECE/1393.

- It was agreed that document E/ECE/1393 will be the basis for the continuation of the dialogue between the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work and the secretariat on technical support issues.

- An ad hoc informal meeting will be convened during the course of 2002 to further discuss ECE's technical assistance and operational activities in more detail.

- The secretariat will provide the documentation requested by the Commission.

Preparation for and follow-up to World Conferences
(Agenda item 8)

54. The Commission considered this item based on Conference Room Paper 5, "Preparations for and follow-up to world conferences". In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary underlined the importance of ECE contributions to the preparations and follow-up to global conferences and events.

Second World Assembly on Ageing

55. The delegation of Spain briefed the Commission on the outcome of the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, Spain, from 8 to 12 April 2002. Two main outcome documents had been adopted at the meeting: the Madrid International Plan of Action and a Political Declaration. He highlighted the most relevant achievements of the Madrid International

Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 as well as the main points contained in the Political Declaration. The new Plan of Action, while respecting the principles of the Millennium Declaration, introduced relevant elements that were not considered before. Whilst the Vienna Plan of Action (1982) was mainly focused on developed countries and the assistance and support to older persons in need, the Madrid Plan highlights the conditions existing also in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Furthermore it takes older persons into account not only as needing assistance but also as generators of economic resources. Special stress had been placed on human rights and the need to respect the dignity of ageing people. Concerning labour, the possibility to prolong older people's working life beyond retirement was also provided for in the International Plan of Action. As far as the implementation of the Plan of Action is concerned, in addition to governments reference is made to the collaboration with civil society as well as with organizations for older persons. The importance of the role played by the United Nations system and its regional commissions, in the collaboration with governments, is underlined with a view to the implementation and follow-up to the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, taking into account the social, economic and demographic diversity existing among the different states and regions.

56. Mr. Christoph Linzbach, in his capacity as Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Berlin Process, gave a briefing on the state of preparations for the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing which will take place in Berlin from 11-13 September 2002. The Conference will adopt a Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the International Plan of Action 2002 which will be fully based on the global Action Plan and highlight the regional perspectives of the challenges and opportunities leading to demographic change. He pointed out that the preparatory process leading up to the Berlin Conference had proceeded in parallel to the one leading up to Madrid. From the perspective of the regional process, global negotiations had provided a useful and importance resource for developing the RIS. He reported on the three-track process leading to Berlin: expert, intergovernmental and civil society. He hoped that many Ministers from ECE member States would participate in this important Ministerial event.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

57. The Ambassador of Romania briefed the Commission on preparations for the European Regional Conference which will be held from 7 to 9 November 2002 in Bucharest. She thanked the secretariat for organizing the meeting on 29 April 2002 at which the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Romania explained the purposes of the Regional Pan-European Preparatory Conference for WSIS. Focussing on regional specificities whilst linking them to the global dimension, the Bucharest meeting is expected to provide a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders (governments, the academia, the business community and civil society), allowing them to share success stories and new developments in the information society of different countries. Further, the meeting would address issues of common interest, make a regional assessment of achievements and challenges, and develop a vision for the information society, agreeing on regional initiatives and possibilities for further cooperation and partnership.

58. The Conference is expected to result in a common vision and road map for information society in Europe and possibly a plan of action in this field. The themes of the meeting would include: knowledge-based society; e-government; infrastructure and institutional framework;

trade and e-commerce; sustainable development; quality of life in the information society. Results from pre-conference meetings, seminars and workshops organized around the main themes, as well as the plenary session, can be brought together in a comprehensive report.

59. The Calendar for the WSIS-related process is as follows:

End of May	Formal invitations will be sent out by the Government of Romania;
June	An informal meeting of the organizing committee in June that would include representatives of key international organizations, namely ECE, ITU, WIPO, UNESCO, CERN, EU etc.;
1-5 July	WSIS Preparatory Conference;
September	Meeting of governmental experts to review the preparations and expected outcome
7-9 November	Bucharest Pan-European Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS.

60. The European Commission informed the meeting of the various initiatives and activities under the e-Europe programme that has already been active in the past 4-5 years and the implementation of an action plan ending in 2002. A new plan of action covering the period up to 2005 is being developed that will give emphasis to access for young people, acceleration of e-commerce and government online etc.

61. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of Romania for hosting the Bucharest Conference and for the preparations related thereto. While the expert meeting on 29 April was helpful, the agenda for Bucharest needs to be firmed up. The ECE was therefore requested to inform the permanent missions, at the next monthly briefing, on this and other follow-up activities leading to the Bucharest meeting, including the proposed setting up of a European network in cooperation with UNDP Bratislava as well as information on the role of ECE's secretariat as the WSIS focal point for all regional commissions.

62. The Executive Secretary expressed the readiness of the secretariat to provide an information briefing on its role in the WSIS process. She explained the role of the ECE's ICT task force as being an interdivisional activity because no single division had the capacity to support this work. She further reminded the member States that the WSIS was another real example of the growing demand on ECE support to global processes.

63. The Chairman of the Commission encouraged the secretariat and all permanent missions to further consult on the planning and preparations for WSIS-related activities.

International Conference on Financing for Development

64. Commenting on the possible follow-up activities for ECE outlined in the document, one delegation raised the issue whether the ECE should address trade policy questions and norms and standards as part of its Monterrey follow-up since such trade-related work is already underway in WTO. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that the ECE did not have the capacity or the ambition to intervene in areas of WTO responsibility, but that it would like to continue to apply its expertise in the area of trade facilitation.

Other business
(Agenda item 10)

65. A briefing was provided by the representative of Spain on Euro-Mediterranean activities, known as the Barcelona process – the only forum where Arab countries and Israel participated together. He spoke about the documents and ministerial decisions that had been adopted and the ministerial meetings held within the framework of the process. The Valencia Plan of Action took into account economic, social humanitarian and cultural issues. For the first time a series of proposals for cooperation on organized crime and terrorism had been introduced. A framework on justice and home affairs had also been adopted. Concerning economic issues, particular emphasis had been placed on the economic integration of the Southern countries. The Valencia Action Plan also included the creation of a new facility in the European Investment Bank, concentrating on public and private investment in the Southern countries Support was expressed to the ECE Mediterranean projects and cooperation with the MEDA Programme was encouraged. ECE could draw upon the work of the Barcelona process in relation to its activities in the Mediterranean.

66. The Senior Adviser on Multidisciplinary Issues from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) reported on the progress of three Interregional Technical Cooperation Projects in the Mediterranean: (i) Capacity building in trade facilitation and electronic business, led by ECE, (ii) Sustainable management and protection of internationally shared ground-waters, led by ESCWA, and (iii) financing renewable energy and energy conservation projects, led by ECA. Information was provided on the issues underlying each project as well as their objectives and the modalities for their implementation.

Adoption of the Annual Report of the Commission
(Agenda item 11)

67. At its sixth meeting, on 10 May 2002, the Commission adopted its report covering the period from 12 May 2001 to 10 May 2002.

ANNEX I

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 2001/2002

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
THE COMMISSION			
Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission		26 June 2001	–
Chairperson:	Mr. H. Kreid (Austria)	5 November 2001	
		16 January 2002	E/ECE/1394
Chairperson:	Mr. K. Petöcz (Slovakia)	15 March 2002	
Working Group for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing		1st meeting 18-19 December 2001	
Chairman:	Mr. C. Linzbach (Germany)	2nd meeting 29 April-3 May 2002	
Joint UNECE/WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health		1st session 26-27 November 2001	ECE/AC.21/2001/5 EUR/00/5026094/5
Co-Chairmen:	Mrs. U. Ulrich-Vogtlin (Switzerland) Mr. R. Thaler (Austria) Mr. B.J. Griffoen (Netherlands)	2nd session 18-19 March 2002	ECE/AC.21/2001/6 EUR/00/5026094/6
Co-Chairmen:	Mrs. L. Licari (Malta) Mr. R. Thaler (Austria) Mr. B.J. Griffoen (Netherlands)	3rd session 2-3 May 2002	ECE/AC.21/2002/1 EUR/02/5040828/1
Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development		24-25 September 2001	ECE/AC.22/2001/2
Chairman: **Vice-Chairmen:**	Mr. J. Deiss (Switzerland) Mr. R. Ballhorn (Canada) Mr. I. Jelev (Romania) Mr. K. Larsson (Sweden) Mr. S. Kurykin (Ukraine)		
Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment		4th session 6 June 2001	JMTE/2001/5
Co-Chairmen:	Ms. V. Tanase (Romania) Ms. S. Vermont (Switzerland)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	19th session 11-14 December 2001	ECE/EB.AIR/75
Chairman:	Mr. H. Dovland (Norway)	
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland) Mr. W. Harnett (United States) Mr. D. Hrcek (Slovenia) Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway) Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden) Mr. P. Széll (United Kingdom) Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)	
Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	25th session 3-5 September 2001	EB.AIR/GE.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)	
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden) Ms. M. Lesnjak (Slovenia) Mr. R. Van Aalst (Netherlands) Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia) Ms. L. Edwards (European Community)	
Working Group on Effects	20th session 29-31 August 2001	EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway)	
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. B. Achermann (Switzerland) Mr. V.N. Bashkin (Russian Federation) Mr. G. Fenech (Canada) Mr. R. Guardans (Spain)	
Working Group on Strategies and Review	33rd session 24-27 September 2001	EB.AIR/WG.5/70
Chairman:	Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland)	
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. W. Harnett (United States) Mr. V. Sokolovsky (Russian Federation) Mr. D. Jost (Germany) Mr. J. Zurek (Poland)	

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Joint Special Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	2-3 July 2001	ECE/MP.WAT/7 ECE/CP.TEIA/5

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Chairman:	Ms. P. Daskalopoulou-Livada (Greece)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. C. de Villeneuve (Netherlands)		
	Mr. E. Berger (Switzerland)		
Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Liability		1st meeting 21-23 November 2001	MP.WAT/AC.3/2001/2 CP.TEIA/AC.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Ms. P. Daskalopoulou-Livada (Greece)	2nd meeting	MP.WAT/AC.3/2002/3
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Bally (Switzerland)	4-6 February 2002	CP.TEIA/AC.1/2002/3
	Mr. A. Tanzi (Italy)		
	Mr. J. Wettig (European Community)	3rd meeting 6-8 May 2002	MP.WAT/AC.3/2002/6 CP.TEIA/AC.1/2001/6
Working Group on Water Management		3rd meeting 17/19 September 2001	MP.WAT/WG.1/ 2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. M. Matushka (Slovakia)	The Hague (Netherlands)	
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment		2nd meeting 5-8 September 2001	MP.WAT/WG.2/ 2001/3
Chairman:	Mr. W. Cofino (Netherlands)	Vääksy (Finland)	
Working Group on Water and Health		1st meeting 14-15 May 2001	MP.WAT/WG.4/2001/2 EUR/ICP/5025519/B/2
Chairman:	Mr. A. Pinter (Hungary)	Budapest (Hungary)	

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment		4th meeting 19 November 2001	MP.EIA/WG.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. S. Ruchti (Switzerland)	Orvieto (Italy)	
Ad Hoc Working Group on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment		1st session 14-16 May 2001	MP.EIA/AC.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. T. Lind (Norway)	2nd session	MP.EIA/AC.1/2001/6
Vice-Chairmen:	Ms. U. Platzer (Austria)	26-28 September 2001	
	Mr. J. Jendroska (Poland)		
	Mr. J. Volf (Czech Republic)	3rd session 21-23 November 2001 Orvieto (Italy)	MP.EIA/AC.1/2001/8
Chairman:	Mr. T. Lind (Norway)	4th session	MP.EIA/AC.1/2002/2
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. de Mulder (Belgium)	11-13 February 2002	
	Mr. J. Jendroska (Poland)	Warsaw (Poland)	
	Mr. J. Volf (Czech Republic)		
		5th session 6-8 May 2002 Oslo (Norway)	MP.EIA/AC.1/2002/5

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report

ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Environmental Policy — 8th session, 25-27 September 2001 — ECE/CEP/80

Chairman: Mr. H. Von Meijenfeldt (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairmen: Ms. H. Cizková (Czech Republic)
Ms. S. Côté (Canada)
Mr. M. Dimovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
Mr. H. Schreiber (Austria)
Ms. S. Vermont-Velisek (Switzerland)
Mr. S. Tveretinov (Russian Federation)

Ad Hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews — 8th meeting, 19-21 September 2001 — CEP/2001/5

Co-Chairmen: Ms. V. Grigorova (Bulgaria)
Mr. H. Liiv (Estonia)

Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring — 1st session, 20-21 September 2001 — CEP/AC.10/2001/2

Chairman: Mr. Yu. Tsaturov (Russian Federation) — 2nd session, 28 February-1 March 2002 — CEP/AC.10/2002/2

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" — 2nd session, 28 September 2001 — CEP/AC.11/2001/2

Chairman: Ms. A. Golubovska-Onisimova (Ukraine)

Regional Consultative Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development — 1st meeting, 12-13 July 2001 — CEP/AC.12/2001/2

Chairman: Mr. F. La Camera (Italy)

Working Group for the preparation of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters — 1st meeting, 28-30 November 2001 — CEP/WG.5/2001/2

Chairman: Mr. F. La Camera (Italy)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. V. Koester (Denmark)
Mr. J. Jendroska (Poland)
Ms. N. Preradovic (Croatia)
Ms. T. Shakirova (Kazakhstan)
Ms. I. Bauer (Norway)
Ms. M. Taylor (NGO representative)

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Group on Compliance and Rules of Procedure		2nd meeting 26-27 November 2001	CEP/WG.5/AC.1/ 2001/6
Chairman:	Mr. A. McGlone (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman	Ms. D. Kubinova (Czech Republic)		
Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers		2nd meeting 5-6 July 2001	CEP/WG.5/AC.2/ 2001/5
Chairman:	Mr. K. Blaha (Czech Republic)	3rd meeting 5-7 December 2001	CEP/WG.5/AC.2/ 2001/9
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. van Grootveld (Netherlands)		
		4th meeting 25-28 March 2002	CEP/WG.5/AC.2/ 2002/2
Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms		1st meeting 10-12 October 2001	CEP/WG.5/AC.3/ 2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. H. Gaugitsch (Austria)	2nd meeting 18-20 February 2002	CEP/WG.5/AC.3/ 2002/2
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. L. Eek (Estonia)		
	TRANSPORT		
Inland Transport Committee		64th session 18-21 February 2002	ECE/TRANS/139 and Add.1
Chairman:	Mrs. V. Tanase (Romania)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium)		
Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels		4th session 9-11 July 2001	TRANS/AC.7/8
Chairman:	Mr. M. Egger (Switzerland)	5th session 17-18 January 2002	TRANS/AC.7/11
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. D. Lacroix (France)		
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety		37th session 10-14 September 2001	TRANS/WP.1/78
Co-Chairmen:	Mr. G. Hoel (Norway) Mr. P. Hol (Netherlands)		
Co-Chairmen:	Mr. D. Link (Israel) Mr. I. Yakimov (Russian Federation)	38th session 19-22 March 2002	TRANS/WP.1/81
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics		14th session 17-19 September 2001	TRANS/WP.5/30
Chairman:	Mr. V. Arsenov (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. W. Zarnoch (Poland)		
Working Party on Transport Statistics		52nd session 14-16 November 2001	TRANS/WP.6/141
Chairman:	Mr. E. Grib (Denmark)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs		57th session 12-15 November 2001	TRANS/WP.11/204
Chairman:	Mr. M. Eilsoe (Denmark)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Tkatchev (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		71st session 5-9 November 2001	TRANS/WP.15/167
Chairman:	Mr. J. Franco (Portugal)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. A. Roumier (France)		
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		28 May-1 June 2001 Bern (Switzerland)	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/84
Chairman:	Mr. A. Johansen (Norway)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Rein (Germany)	10-14 September	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/86
		18-22 March 2002 Bern (Switzerland)	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/88
Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)		5th session 21-25 January 2002	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.2/11
Chairman:	Mr. H. Rein (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Rak (Czech Republic)		
Working Party on Combined Transport		36th session 3-5 September 2001	TRANS/WP.24/93
Chairman:	Mrs. M. Masclee (Netherlands)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Viardot (France)	37th session 18-19 April 2002	TRANS/WP.24/95
World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)		124th session 26-29 June 2001	TRANS/WP.29/792
Chairman:	Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	125th session	TRANS/WP.29/815
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Koutenev (Russian Federation)	6-9 November 2001	
		126th session 12-15 March 2002	TRANS/WP.29/841
Working Party on Noise		35th session 13-14 September 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/33
Chairman:	Mr. H. Löffelholz (Germany)		
		36th session 26-28 February 2002	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/34

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Lighting and Light-signalling		47th session 1-5 October 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/47
Chairman:	Mr. G. Meekel (Netherlands)		
Chairman:	Mr. H. Gorzkowski (Canada)	48th session 9-12 April 2002	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/48
Working Party on Pollution and Energy		42nd session 28-31 May 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/42
Chairman:	Mr. B. Gauvin (France)		
		43rd session 15-18 January 2002	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/43
Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear		50th session 10-11 September 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/50
Chairman:	Mr. M. Fendick (United Kingdom)		
		51st session 4-8 February 2002	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/51
Working Party on General Safety Provisions		81st session 8-11 October 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/60
Chairman:	Mr. J. Martin (Luxembourg)		
		82nd session 29 April-3 May 2002	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/61
Working Party on Passive Safety		29th session 7-11 May 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSP/29
Chairman:	Mr. C. Lomonaco (Italy)		
		28th session 3-6 December 2001	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSP/30
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport		98th session 19-22 June 2001	TRANS/WP.30/196
Chairman:	Mr . F. Paroissin (France)	99th session 23-25 October 2001	TRANS/WP.30/198
		100th session 12-15 February 2002	TRANS/WP.30/200
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975		31st session 25-26 October 2001	TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/63
Chairman:	Mr. I. Parts (Estonia)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. O. Federov (Ukraine)		
Chairman:	Mr. O. Federov (Ukraine)	32nd session 14-15 February 2002	TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/65
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. R. Sen (Turkey)		
Working Party on Road Transport		95th session 16-19 October 2001	TRANS/SC.1/369
Chairman:	Mr. J. Alaluusua (Finland)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A. Pinson (Russian Federation)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revision of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)		2nd session 11-12 April 2002	TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/4
Chairman:	Mr. J. Piscitelli (Luxembourg)		
Working Party on Rail Transport		55th session 16-18 October 2001	TRANS/SC.2/196
Chairman:	Mr. E. Kosteas (Greece)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. Szabó (Hungary)		
Working Party on Inland Water Transport		45th session 23-25 October 2001	TRANS/SC.3/155
Chairman:	Mr. I. Valkar (Hungary)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. C. Hofhuizen (Netherlands)		
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation		22nd session 6-8 June 2001	TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/44
Chairman:	Mr. H. Van Doorn (Netherlands)	23rd session 19-21 March 2002	TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/47
STATISTICS			
Conference of European Statisticians		49th plenary session 11-13 June 2001	ECE/CES/60 + CES/2001/34 & Adds.1-6
Chairman:	Mr. S. Longva (Norway)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. L. Cook (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. H. Snorrason (Iceland)		
	Mr. T. Toczynski (Poland)		
	Mr. R. Veetousme (Estonia)		
Joint ECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices		1-2 November 2001	CES/AC.49/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. J. Greenlees (United States)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. C.B. Hansen (Denmark)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat/FAO/OECD World Conference on Agricultural Statistics		5-7 June 2001 Rome (Italy)	CES/AC.61/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. L. Biggeri (Italy)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat/FAO/OECD Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe		17-19 October 2001	CES/AC.61/2001/21
Chairman:	Ms. M.-L. Widén (Sweden)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. I. Orešnik (Slovenia)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Joint ECE/OECD/CIS Meeting on National Accounts for CIS Countries	28-30 May 2001 St. Petersburg (Russian Federation)	CES/AC.68/2001/2
Chairman: Ms. I. Massakova (Russian Federation)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on National Accounts	24-26 April 2002	CES/AC.68/2002/2
Chairman: Mr. O. Berner (Denmark)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers	28-29 June 2001	CES/SEM.46/2
Chairman: Mr. J. Perry (United Kingdom) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. H. Picard (France)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and Related Matters (ISIS 2002)	17-19 April 2002	CES/SEM.47/2
Chairman: Mr. M. Turner (Canada) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. W. Knueppel (Eurostat)		
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT		
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	5th session 13-15 June 2001	ECE/TRADE/280
Chairman: Mr. A. Safarik-Pstrosz (Czech Republic) **Vice-Chairmen:** Ms. A. Öktem (Turkey) Ms. S. Aisagaliyeva (Kazakhstan) Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain)		
Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice	50th session 11-13 March 2002	TRADE/WP.5/2002/12
Chairman: Mr. D. Winter (United Kingdom) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. D. Colodeiciuc (Romania)		
Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies	11th session 29-31 October 2001	TRADE/WP.6/2001/18
Chairman: Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden) **Vice-Chairmen:** Ms. M. Saunders (United States) Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus)		
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development	57th session 12-14 November 2001	TRADE/WP.7/2001/9
Chairman: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mrs. O. Vorovenci (Romania) Mr. D.L. Priester (United States)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Specialized Section on [Coordination of] Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables		47th session 15-18 May 2001	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/ 2001/19
Chairman:	Mr. D.L. Priester (United States)	48th session 23-26 April 2002	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/ 2002/20
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. U. Bickelmann (Germany)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)		48th session 18-21 June 2001	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/ 2001/13
Chairman:	Mr. W. Staub (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Sciannella (Italy)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes		32nd session 4-6 March 2002	TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/ 2002/15
Chairman:	Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. P.A. Miauton (Switzerland)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat		11th session 8-10 April 2002	TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/ 2002/13
Chairman:	Mr. B. Carpenter (United States)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. King (Australia)		
Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development		3rd session 14-15 February 2002	TRADE/WP.8/2002/10
Chairman:	Ms. K. Gurbiel (Poland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Ms. D. Karajic (Croatia)		
	Ms. T. Skameykina (Russian Federation)		
	Ms. J. Habuda (Hungary)		
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY			
Committee on Sustainable Energy		11th session 21-22 November 2001	ECE/ENERGY/47
Chairman:	Mr. H.Ch. Blanc (France)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. B. Zluwa (Austria)		
	Mr. B. Varnavskiy (Russian Federation)		
	Ms. E. Aybar (Turkey)		
	Mr. T. Cerepnalkovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)		
	Mr. M. Greenbaum (United States)		
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power		4th session 19-20 November 2001	ENERGY/GE.1/2001/2
Chairman:	Mr. S. Klimov (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. C. Alexandrescu (Romania)		
	Mr. M. Walis (Czech Republic)		
	Mr. M. Greenbaum (United States)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Extension of European Electricity Interconnection	4th session 23 November 2001	ENERGY/GE.2/2001/2
Chairman: Mr. I. Smirnov (Russian Federation) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. H.Ch. Blanc (France)		
Task Force on the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/ Resources: Solid Fuels and Minerals	19-20 November 2001	ENERGY/AC.1/ 2001/2
Chairman: Mr. D. Kelter (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. P. Blystad (Norway)		
Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of Energy Reserves/Resources Terminology	13-14 June 2001	ENERGY/AC.4/ 2001/2
Chairman: Mr. D. Kelter (Germany) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. P. Blystad (Norway) Mr. V. Skorobogatov (Russian Federation) Mr. V. Lovinikov (Ukraine)		
Working Party on Gas	12th session 22-23 January 2002	ENERGY/WP.3/ /2002/2
Chairman: Mr. B. Rey (Poland) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. N. Coupaye (France) Mr. F. De Lichtervelde (Belgium)		
Meeting of Experts on Natural Gas Resources	24th session 14-15 June 2001	ENERGY/WP.3/GE.1/ 2001/2
Chairman: Mr. M. Kosinowski (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. V. Skorobogatov (Russian Federation)		
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas	3rd session 24 January 2002	ENERGY/WP.3/GE.5/ 2002/2
Chairman: Mr. A. Zedelj (Croatia) **Vice-Chairman:** Mrs. M.T. Sao Pedro (Portugal)		
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project	12th session 19-20 November 2001	ENERGY/WP.4/ 2001/9
Chairman: Mr. B. Laponche (France) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. T. Dahlsveen (Norway) Mr. Z. Genchev (Bulgaria) Mr. T. Sacco (United States) Mrs. M. Persutto (Italy) Mr. B. Reoutov (Russian Federation)		
UNF/UNFIP Experts Team on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation	4th meeting 20 November 2001	ENERGY/WP.4/ 2001/10
Chairman: Mr. B. Jamet (France)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
TIMBER			
Timber Committee		59th session 2-5 October 2001	ECE/TIM/97
Chairman:	Mr. J. Serveau (Canada)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. G.F. Borlea (Romania)		
	Ms A. Bergquist (Sweden)		
Workshop on New Trends in Wood Harvesting with Cable Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Mountains		18-24 June 2001 Ossiach (Austria)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ SEM.51/2
Chairmen:	Mr. P.N. Efthymiou (Greece)		
	Mr. R. Heinrich (Austria)		
	Mr. J. Garland (United States)		
	Mr. P. Owende (Ireland)		
	Mr. P. Schiess (United States)		
	Mr. R. Visser (United States)		
	Mr. H.R. Heinimann (Switzerland)		
	Mr. J. Lorbach (FAO)		
Seminar on "Forestry Meets the Public"		8-11 October 2001 Walkringen (Switzerland)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ SEM.52/2
Chairmen:	Mr. N. Foley (Ireland)		
	Mr. M. Wenner (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. H. Höfle (Germany)		
	Ms. L. Kopylova (Russian Federation)		
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics		23rd session 14-16 May 2001	TIM/EFC/WP.2/ 2001/8
Chairman:	Mr. D. Brooks (United States)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. E. Sollander (Sweden)		
	Mr. M. Gecovic (Slovakia)		
Chairman:	Mr. M. Gecovic (Slovakia)	24th session 8-10 April 2002	TIM/EFC/WP.2/ 2002/6
	Mr. H. Huckert (Germany)		
	Mr. M. Aarne (Finland)		
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS			
Committee on Human Settlements		62nd session 17-19 September 2001	ECE/HBP/122
Chairman:	Ms. D. Grabmüllerova (Czech Republic)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. W. Förster (Austria)		
	Mr. Y. Papadopoulos (Cyprus)		
	Mr. J. Wolters (Denmark)		
	Ms. E. Szolgayová (Slovakia)		
	Mr. T. Corcoran (Ireland)		
	Ms. I. Budisteanu (Romania)		
	Mr. A. Starovoytov (Russian Federation)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Land Administration	2nd session 19-20 November 2001	HBP/WP.7/2001/10
Chairman: Ms. B. Lipej (Slovenia)		
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Wolters (Denmark)		
Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities		
Expert Meeting on Best Practice in the Creation of Quality Assurance Systems for Enhancing Competitiveness of SMEs	25-26 October 2001	OPA/AC.18/5
Chairman: Mr. R. Jeker (Switzerland)		
First UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs	22 October 2001	OPA/AC.21/6
Chairman: Mrs. L. Kapitsa (ECE)		
Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in countries in transition: The Belarusian Experience	24 October 2001	OPA/AC.22/2
Chairman: Mr. V. Malevich (Belarus)		
The Polish Experience	23 October 2001	OPA/AC.24/2
Chairman: Mr. T. Knotke (Poland)		
Meeting of Experts on Quality Management Systems	13 February 2002	--
Chairman: Mrs. S. Ratso (Estonia)		

ANNEX II

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. LIST OF MAJOR ECE STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS, 2001/2002

The language versions issued are indicated by the following abbreviations: E, English; F, French; R, Russian; E/F, bilingual (English/French); E/F/R, trilingual (English/French/Russian).

GENERAL

Annual Report of the ECE to ECOSOC, 6 May 2000-11 May 2001 Supplement No. 17 (E/2001/37-E/ECE/1387)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe, 2001, No. 1 (Sales No. 01.II.E.14)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe, 2001, No. 2 (Sales No. 01.II.E.26)	E F R

Economic Studies Series

An Evaluation of the Fertility and Family Survey Reports (Sales No. 01.II.E.23)	E
Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region: Standard Country Reports:	
No. 10t - Denmark (Sales No. 01.II.E.15)	E
No. 10u – Bulgaria (Sales No. 01.II.E.16)	E
No. 10v – Czech Republic (Sales No. 01.II.E.20)	E

ENVIRONMENT

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe: Strategy for EMEP 2000-2009 (Sales No. 01.II.E.18)	E F R
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Rules of Procedure (ECE/CP.TEIA/3) (Sales No. 01.II.E.11)	E/F/R

Environmental Performance Reviews Series

No. 12 – Estonia (Second Review) (Sales No. 01.II.E.27)	E
No. 13 – Romania (Sales No. 01.II.E.28)	E
No. 14 – Uzbekistan (Sales No. 02.II.E.5)	E

TRANSPORT

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, 12th revised edition (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.12) (Sales No. 01.VIII.4) (Also available in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish)	E F R
European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ECE/TRANS/150) (Sales No. 01.VIII.5)	E F R
World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29): How it works, How to join it (Sales No. 02.II.E.9)	E F R
Inland Transport Committee Directory, January 2002 (ECE/TRANS/NONE/2002/4)	E
Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, 2001 Vol. LI (Sales No. 02.II.E.4)	E/F/R
Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America 2001, Vol.XLVI (Sales No. 01.II.E.13)	E/F/R

STATISTICS

World Robotics 2001 (Sales No. E.01.0.16)	E
Conference of European Statisticians, Methodological Material: Best Practices in Designing Websites for Dissemination of Statistics	E
Conference of European Statisticians, Methodological Material: Recommendations on Formats relevant to the Downloading of Statistical Data from the Internet	E

TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Chemical Industry in 2000, Annual Review: Production and Trade Statistics 1997-1999 (ECE/TRADE/264) (Sales No. 01.II.E.12)	E
Electronic Commerce for Transition Economies in the Digital Age: Forum Proceedings (ECE/TRADE/268) (Sales No. 01.II.E.8)	E
United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents: Guidelines for Application (ECE/TRADE/270)	E
Facilitation Measures related to International Trade Procedures: Recommendation 18 (ECE/TRADE/271)	E F R
The Improvement of the Radiation Protection Aspects in the Recycling of Metals (ECE/TRADE/278) (Sales No. 01.II.E.22)	E
Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations (ECE/TRADE/279)	E

Best Practice from the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CD-Rom) (ECE/TRADE/284) (Sales No. 01.II.E.30)	E
Services in Transition Economies: Round Table (ECE/TRADE/285) (Sales No. 02.II.E.1)	E
Trading into the Future: E-Services for Trade, Investment and Enterprise (ECE/TRADE/286)(Sales No. 02.II.E.3)	E
Trade Facilitation, An Introduction to the Basic Concepts and Benefits (ECE/TRADE/289)	E

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Energy Efficiency and Energy Security in the CIS (ECE/ENERGY/44) (Sales No. GV.E.01.0.10)	E R
East West Energy Efficiency Standards and Labels (+ CD-Rom) (ECE/ENERGY/45) (Sales No. GV.E.01.0.8)	E

TIMBER

Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers : Forest Policies and Institutions in Europe 1998-2000 (ECE/TIM/SP/19) (Sales No. 01.II.E.19)	E
Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Papers	
Structural, compositional and functional Aspects of forest biodiversity in Europe (ECE/TIM/DP/22) (Sales No. 01.II.E.21)	E
Forest Certification Update for the ECE Region, Summer 2001 (ECE/TIM/DP/23)	E
Timber Bulletin, Vol. LIII (2000)	
No. 4: Forest Fire Statistics, 1997-1999 (ECE/TIM/BULL/53/4)	E/F
Timber Bulletin, Vol. LIV (2001)	
No. 3: Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2000-2001 (ECE/TIM/BULL/54/3)	E F R
No. 4: Forest Fire Statistics, 1998-2000 (ECE/TIM/BULL/54/4)	E/F
No. 6: Forest Products Markets in 2001 and Prospects for 2002 (ECE/TIM/BULL/54/6)	E/F R
Timber and Forest Information Series: Timber Committee Yearbook 2001 (ECE/TIM/INF/8)	E F R

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Romania (ECE/HBP/124)	E
Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/125)	E

B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Provisional agenda	E/ECE/1391/Rev.2
Economic Aspects of Security in Europe	E/ECE/1392
Progress Report on ECE Technical Assistance	E/ECE/1393
Conference Room Paper 1: The Economic Dimension to Security: New Challenges and New Approaches	
Conference Room Paper 2: Role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Addressing Threats against Economic Infrastructure	
Conference Room Paper 3: Strengthening the Organization	
Conference Room Paper 4: Review of Operational Activities Undertaken in 2001	
Conference Room Paper 5: Preparations for and Follow-up to World Conferences	
Conference Room Paper 6: ECE Annual Session	

C. REPORTS OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

Committee on Environmental Policy	ECE/CEP/80
Inland Transport Committee	ECE/TRANS/139 and Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/60 CES/2001/34 and Adds. 1-6
Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	ECE/TRADE/280
Committee on Sustainable Energy	ECE/ENERGY/47
Timber Committee	ECE/TIM/97
Committee on Human Settlements	ECE/HBP/122

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